# A New Beginning

ORD's initiatives with respect to research grants and graduate fellowships fulfill two of the recommendations that emerged from a recent study of EPA laboratories (Research, Development, and Technical Services at EPA: A New Beginning — Report number EPA/600/R-94/122, July 1994). Companion initiatives also are underway in response to other recommendations. For example, ORD is reallocating more of its funds to long-term projects — with a view toward achieving a 50:50 split between short-term and long-term projects within a few years. At the same time, ORD is realigning its headquarters offices, laboratories, and field units to focus its research primarily on reducing uncertainties associated with risk assessment and risk management.

These achievements will play a major role in moving EPA toward a goal of excellence and national leadership in science that will be essential as the country enters a new generation of environmental protection.

## For More Information

To get additional information about ORD's expanding grant and fellowship programs, contact:

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By Internet: World Wide Web address:

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# Expanding the Scope of Research Grants and Graduate Fellowships

The Office of Research and Development's Commitment to Excellence



#### Science Missions at EPA

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and its unique role, is the joint protection of environmental quality and human health. As effective environmental policies rely on sound science, EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) is committed to providing the best possible products in the areas of research, development, and technical support. By cultivating an efficient, interdisciplinary research program that emphasizes integration and close cooperation with the public and private research communities, ORD will excel as the science arm of the Agency.

# Rationale for Expanding EPA's Investment in Extramural Research

To promote excellence in environmental science and engineering, ORD is establishing a new, national program of graduate fellowships and substantially increasing its support for investigator-initiated research grants. Historically, most of ORD's funding for extramural research has been devoted to contracts, interagency agreements, and

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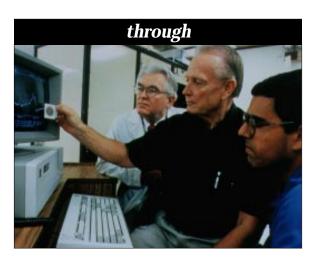
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cooperative agreements to address targeted, often short-term, environmental needs. The increase in funding for grants (with reliance on quality science and peer review) and for graduate fellowships (to support the education and career development of future scientists) will provide for a more balanced, long-term capital investment in improved environmental R&D.

# **Expanded Grants Program**

Over the next three years, ORD plans to expand its program for extramural research grants selected from competitive, peer-reviewed proposals from the scientific community outside of EPA. The funding level for the program will be an estimated \$44 million in fiscal year 1995 (up from \$22 million in 1994) and is expected to grow further in subsequent years with the goal of achieving an annual funding level of \$100 million by 1997. EPA also is working with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to jointly solicit and evaluate proposals under this program, and it is anticipated that this partnership with NSF will lead to both agencies providing funding for innovative research in environmental science and engineering.



In addition, EPA's research grant regulation will be revised based on recommendations from the community of academic and other not-for-profit institutions. The goal is to publish a final regulation for use during fiscal year 1996 that streamlines and simplifies grants administration for both the recipient community and EPA.

### Graduate Fellowship Program

ORD will also be establishing a nationally competitive, peer-reviewed graduate fellowship program in academic disciplines at the forefront of environmental science and technology: the physical, biological, and social sciences; mathematics and computer science; and engineering. Both the public and the private sectors will need a steady stream of well-trained environmental scientists and engineers if our society is to meet the environmental challenges of the future. The goal is to fund at least 100 fellowships in 1995, 200 in 1996, and 300 in 1997. These fellowships will defray most of the costs associated with advanced study leading to the masters or doctoral degree and thereby should attract outstanding students.

